

The specification has been amended to insert a specific reference to a provisional application upon which a claim of priority has been based. It is submitted that the application, as amended, is now in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §119(e)(1) and the corresponding Patent Office regulations.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0383 for any additional fees required under 37 CFR §1.16 or under §1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 01-18-01


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on: January 18, 2001.


Ginger Fogle